

Poetry.

COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.

Comfort one another ;
For the way is growing dreary,
The feet are often weary,
And the heart is very sad
There is heavy burden-bearing,
When it seems that none are caring,
And we half forget that ever we were glad.

Comfort one another
With the hand-clasp close and tender,
With the sweetness love can render,
And the look of friendly eyes.
Do not wait with grace unspoken,
While life's daily bread is broken ;
Gentle speech is oft the manna from the skies.

Comfort one another ;
There are words of music ringing
Down the ages, sweet as singing
Of the happy choirs above.
Ransomed saint and mighty angel
Lift the grand, deep-voiced evangel,
Where forever they are praising the Eternal Love.
—Margaret E. Sangster.

Contributions.

TRUE MANHOOD.

A. B. GNAGEY.

"Show thyself a man." I King 2 : 2.

Buckminster says that the sublimest thing in nature is the moral grandeur of true manhood. But many years before the time of Buckminster, a Roman audience would rise in admiration when hearing that grand and noble expression of true manhood, by Terence, "I am a man, and I regard nothing pertaining to humanity as foreign to me." And before the days of Terence, a dying king of Israel said to his son, "I go the way of all the earth, be thou strong, therefore, and show thyself a man."

The subject of true manliness is one that commends itself to the nobler instincts of our nature. It stands out prominently on the pages of history, both sacred and profane. It has been eulogized in poetry, and immortalized in song. It is admired by the father in his son, and the son admires it in the father. Every young man of proper instinct desires to attain true manhood, and every noble young woman almost adores it in a young man.

"Show thyself a man," but we must remember that true manliness does not consist in the strength and size of the human body. This is the barbarian idea of true manhood, but it is not of the people of this civilized and refined age. Physical strength and dignity of body may add to true manliness, but these do by no means constitute the thing itself.

Nor does it consist in intellectual great-

ness. Men have lived who could play a difficult piece of music after hearing it played but once. Men who could repeat whole pages of history after reading it but once. It is said that Cyrus the Great knew the name of every soldier in his magnificent army ; but these men were not all necessarily truly great. True manhood does, then, not consist in a great intellect. We need not be discouraged, nor think that we can not be true men because we have not been gifted with great physical or intellectual strength.

Nor does true manliness consist in imitating, without discriminating, the conduct or habits of others. There is a higher standard of true manliness than the life and actions of others. Boys very naturally regard the habits of men as manly, but alas ! alas ! my friend what a great mistake, young men often make by imitating what they think to be a manly example ! As long as men use the poisonous weed, or drink intoxicating liquors, or profane the name of God, the boys will imitate their example in these things and at the same time think that they are acting manly by so doing. We can best show ourselves to be men, then, not by merely imitating, but by emulating the virtues of others and by shunning their vices.

Nor does true manliness consist in following popular sentiment, right or wrong, or any party, right or wrong. I can best illustrate this by the words of another. When Col. Baine was in Boston lecturing on temperance, a gentleman said to him, "I was interested in your lecture but you are far ahead of public sentiment in Boston." The Col. replied by saying, "I have been in Boston long enough to find that public sentiment is not right." "I went down Washington St., the other day and met an elegantly dressed lady, wealthy, judging from her diamonds and dress. She had a poodle dog in her arms caressing it, and the same woman would not be caught carrying her own baby in her arms down your fashionable avenues, and yet the highest type of creation is a true mother with a babe in her arms, and the Col. added by saying that he believed it would be a blessing to our country if some avenging angel could go through the cities of our land and smite every English pug and poodle-dog bought to take the place of a baby. Never mind sentiment, but have the courage to stand for what is right, if you stand alone. The world must some day come to where you stand.

Show yourself a man by showing your own proper self-respect. If you would have others respect you, you must respect yourself. If you would enjoy the friendship of your fellow-man, you must be a

true friend to yourself. You may not enjoy the love and friendship of a great many, but you can show yourself worthy of the friendship and love of a great many, Show yourself to be a man then, by respecting your own rights and your own honor, even if others do not.

Show yourself to be a man by your moral courage and stability of character.

"Dare to do right.

Dare to be true."

Dare to say no, when you are tempted to do wrong, or to go to a wrong place. Like our Lord said to the tempter, "Get thee behind me Satan." Stand fast to that temperance pledge, which I hope you have all taken, and are *trying* by the help of God to keep sacred.

Now my friends we must all admit that since man fell from his climax in Eden, a perfect man has not been found, save in the humanity of Jesus Christ. Do you want a model of true manhood ? You have it in Jesus. Do you want a model of spotless purity ? You have it in Him. Do you want a model of temperance and sobriety ? You have it in Him. Do you desire strength beyond that which is merely human, to feel that the arm that encircles you is able to save you ? You have it in Him.

And do you want to feel that there is a heart that always beats in sympathy with yours, and that always loves you, and that too with a love that is greater than the love of a mother, and purer than the love of angels, a love that in its sublime heights, and in its profound depths, in its immense length and breadth surpasseth all human understanding ? You have all these qualities in Jesus. Is he then not the proper model for us all to follow ? Every young man who starts out in life and desires to become a true great man must follow Jesus as an example.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his own life for his friends." "Christ died for us." Then, "show yourself a man," my friend and brother, and do it by showing yourself capable of appreciating in your very heart of hearts, such love as this, "Show yourself a man by giving Jesus your heart and hand to be led by him and to be saved by him. Then and then only, will you be in the line of your own true manhood.

GIVING up for Christ is an enriching process. Whatever we lay down here in order to please and honor our Master will be laid up to our account yonder. Our God is a faithful trustee ; he keeps his books of remembrance. He will reward every one according as his work shall be.